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no more sailing until the 9th instant, and the situation there did not seem to warrant my delaying until that time.

From the consul's description of the inspection, etc., I judged it to be about the same in method as is observed at Liverpool, but more rigid, perhaps, as to persons, as I understood that a number of rejections were made at the last inspection on account of trachoma. The consul there, as at Liverpool, has to rely mainly on the steamship people for information as regards the condition of emigrants and their baggage, and it would seem that there is more real danger of infection being carried into the States by means of baggage than by persons, although it is claimed that all dirty and suspicious baggage is washed before being allowed on board. Of this I have no reliable information, and there must be some doubt as to this process being carried out in all cases, as it occasionally happens that a lot of emigrants arrive and go directly aboard their steamer without first being admitted to the hotel, as was witnessed in one instance at Liverpool last week.

There is but one boarding house for emigrants in Southampton, and at the time of my visit to it it was dirty and filthy in the extreme.

No shipments of wool or hides from India are being made through Southampton. * * *

Inclosed is a clipping from the Paris edition of the New York Herald of the 2d instant in reference to the nonexistence of plague in Algeria, this country having previously, according to the contained statement, been held as suspicious. It may be of some interest and value to the Bureau.

The reason for submitting this report from Paris is, that it was found that a delay of twenty-four hours at Southampton awaiting the next boat for Havre would have occurred had it been sent from there, and it was contemplated to proceed direct from Havre to Marseilles, but owing to a delay in crossing the channel, I failed to make connections with the through train, and reached here this evening only. I leave to-morrow, the 6th, for Marseilles.

Respectfully,

J. A. NYDEGGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

GERMANY.

Measures to be adopted at Bremen ports for the purpose of combatting plague.

[From United States Vice-Consul G. W. Murphy.]

[Translation from the Weser Zeitung of November 25, 1899.]

The sanitary officials at Bremen have submitted a report concerning precautionary measures for combatting the danger from bubonic plague. The outbreak of the plague in Portugal and in certain ports of England and Austria, make it necessary to take steps to prevent the introduction of the disease at Bremen ports, and to meet the possibility that plague may be brought in ships to the Weser River. A conference has been held in the imperial sanitary department at Berlin, at which the director of the Bremen Bacteriological Institute was present, and the matter has been very carefully considered by the sanitary officials and a committee consisting of medical authorities, harbor officials, and ship owners. As a result the sanitary officials have made a report and requested appropriations as follows:

1. In addition to the director already empowered to make bacterio-

logical investigations of cases of plague, a number of local bacteriologists must receive further instruction either in the Bacteriological Institute or in the imperial sanitary department at Berlin. To cover traveling expenses, etc., including the cost of sending a physician to Bremerhaven, a sum of 1,600 marks (\$380) is needed.

2. Rooms must be fitted up specially for the purpose in the Bacteriological Institute. Estimated cost, 1,700 marks (\$405).

3. If cases of plague occur at Bremerhaven, a branch laboratory must be established there under the charge of a physician trained in bacteriology. A room in the quarantine hospital can be fitted up for this purpose at an expense of 350 marks (\$83).

4. For perfecting arrangements for bacteriological plague investigations various articles are needed which will cost 2,480 marks (\$590).

5. Recent investigations prove that rats and other vermin are the principal transmitters of the plague. Owing to the impossibility of preventing rats coming on board vessels at foreign ports and subsequently escaping to the land, the only defense against the danger which threatens us is to exterminate these animals as far as possible. Vessels engaged in traffic between the Weser and ports where the existence of plague is suspected should be supplied with cats. Poison should also be used and such ships should be well smoked after the removal of the cargo. On shore the rats must be fought with cats and rat-catching dogs. Rewards must also be offered for the delivery of dead rats. In order to encourage port watchmen and other harbor employees to keep rat-catching dogs a premium of 30 marks (\$7.50) per annum should be allowed to the owner of each such dog, the total number at Bremen and Bremerhaven not to exceed 25. With this allowance port employees will be willing to keep dogs and pay the dog tax.

In addition to the 750 marks (\$187) needed for this purpose, 2,000 marks (\$470) should be appropriated for paying a premium of 5 pfennigs (1½ cents) for each dead rat delivered. The dead bodies can be disposed of in the ovens of the gas works and in the central heaters of the ports. The possibility that the premiums may encourage the bringing in of dead rats from other places can not be avoided. Another means for getting rid of rats is to sulphurize the sewers in Bremen and to flood with river water those at Bremerhaven. Both of these plans are being considered. Owners of warehouses and barns near the ports are urged in their own interest to do their utmost to destroy the rats nesting therein. Furthermore they are required, as are all port employees, to send to the Bacteriological Institute all rats found dead without visible wounds, in order that they may be examined for traces of plague. Consideration is now being given to the question as to whether and when this requirement should be extended to the public generally, as has already been done at Hamburg. The question as to whether a general destruction of rats by means of poison should be resorted to is also being considered. For various reasons a decision has not yet been reached on either of these points.

6. Cases of plague which may occur at Bremen ports will be strictly isolated. For this purpose a portion of the cholera barracks at Bremen and in Bremerhaven part of the quarantine station will be used. They will be absolutely secured against the entrance and exit of rats, and the admission of unauthorized persons will be forbidden. For making these necessary preparations a sum of 14,080 marks (\$3,450) is necessary.

Respectfully,

G. W. MURPHY,

Vice-Consul at Bremen, Germany.

The SURGEON-GENERAL, *U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*